



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,466	02/22/2002	Siani Lynne Pearson	B-4516 619562-5	8389

7590

09/30/2005

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

PAN, JOSEPH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2135

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/080,466

Applicant(s)

PEARSON ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph Pan

Art Unit

2135

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 August 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/15/03 & 3/18/03 & 05/01/02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 11-13, 16-22, 25, 28, 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Deep (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,412).

Referring to claims 1, 5, 19:

Deep teaches:

Apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically, the apparatus comprising:

Means for receiving a request from at least one party to provide said virtual room, said request including information regarding the proposed purpose of said virtual room (see column 2, lines 63-67; and column 3, lines 1-6 of Deep);

Means for verifying the legitimacy of said proposed purpose and providing said virtual room only if said proposed purpose meets one or more predetermined criteria (see column 3, lines 7-10 of Deep).

Referring to claims 2, 6:

Art Unit: 2135

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: an apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 1 above). Deep further discloses that the apparatus further comprises:

Means for receiving a request from at least one party to enter said virtual room (see column 3, lines 39-41 of Deep);

Means for defining predetermined criteria for entry into said virtual room (see column 3, lines 50-59 of Deep);

Means for permitting a party to enter said virtual room only if said party satisfies said predetermined common criteria (see figure 5, element 100 of Deep).

Referring to claim 11:

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: an apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 1 above). Deep further discloses that the apparatus adapted to provide a plurality of private virtual rooms upon demand, each of the virtual rooms being run in a logically and physically protected computing environment (see figure 3, element 62 of Deep).

Referring to claims 12-13:

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: an apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 1 above). Deep further discloses that the privacy feature can be enforced by any number of encryption procedures that a commercially available. The privacy feature is invoked once the chat room is closed to form an occupied room (see column 3, lines 30-38 of Deep).

Referring to claims 16, 32:

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: an apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 1 above). Deep further discloses the means to display all chat rooms available to the user (see figure 3, element 62 of Deep).

Referring to claims 17, 33:

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: an apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 1 above). Deep further discloses the means to producing logs of the communication or interaction taking place within a private virtual room and storing the logs in a protected storage means (see figure 4, element 76 of Deep).

Referring to claim 18:

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: an apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 1 above). Deep further discloses that the logs are stored using a key known only to the apparatus (see figure 4, element 76 of Deep).

Referring to claim 20:

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: a method for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 19 above). Deep further discloses:

Service provider establishes criteria for entry into said virtual room (see column 2, lines 63-67; and column 3, lines 1-6 of Deep);

A party requests entry to the virtual room from the service provider (see figure 4, elements 10, 72 of Deep);

The service provider permits the party to enter the virtual room only if said party satisfies said established criteria for entry (see figure 5, element 100 of Deep).

Referring to claim 21:

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: a method for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 19 above). Deep further discloses that the criteria for entry are established by the request to provide a virtual room (see column 2, lines 63-67; and column 3, lines 1-6 of Deep).

Referring to claim 22:

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: a method for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 19 above). Deep further discloses that the criteria for entry are established

in accordance with predetermined criteria for the proposed purpose of the virtual room (see abstract, lines 4-7 of Deep).

Referring to claim 25:

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: a method for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 19 above). Deep further discloses that the request comprises a user-specified purpose for the virtual room (see column 3, lines 50-50 of Deep).

Referring to claim 28:

Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: a method for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 19 above). Deep further discloses:

A party requesting the service provider to allow that party to enter said virtual room (see figure 4, elements 10, 72 of Deep);

The service provider defining criteria for entry into said virtual room (see column 2, lines 63-67; and column 3, lines 1-6 of Deep);

Permitting the party to enter said virtual room only if the party satisfies said predetermined common criteria (see figure 5, element 100 of Deep).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-4, 7-10, 14-15, 23-24, 26-27, 29-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Deep (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,412) in view of Ta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,931,545).

Referring to claims 3, 7, 23:

i. Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: an apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 1 above). However, Deep does not specifically mention that the apparatus further comprises means for running said virtual room within its own physically and logically protected computing environment.

ii. Ta et al. disclose a system wherein the system establishes a physically and logically protected computing environment (see figure 14, element S430 of Ta et al.).

iii. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ta et al. into the apparatus of Deep to establishes a physically and logically protected computing environment.

iv. The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to have applied the teaching of Ta et al. into the system of Deep to establishes a physically and logically protected computing environment, because it is especially preferred that the chat rooms of the present invention be private so that confidential information can be exchanged between the parties without the risk of exposure to unauthorized third parties (see column 3, lines 29-32 of Deep).

Referring to claims 4, 8, 24:

Deep and Ta et al. discloses the claimed subject matter: an apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 1 above). Ta et al. further discloses that the apparatus further comprises means for verifying the integrity of data within the or each said environment (see figure 14, element S440 of Ta et al.).

Referring to claims 9, 26:

i. Deep teaches:

An apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically. The apparatus comprises means for providing at least one virtual room (see figure 3, element 62 of Deep).

However, Deep does not specifically mention that the apparatus further comprises means for running said virtual room within its own physically and logically protected computing environment, and the means for verifying the integrity of data within the or each said environment.

ii. Ta et al. disclose a system wherein the system establishes a physically and logically protected computing environment (see figure 14, element S430 of Deep); and comprises the means for verifying the integrity of data within the or each said environment (see figure 14, element S440 of Ta et al.).

iii. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ta et al. into the apparatus of Deep to establishes a physically and logically protected computing environment. And it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ta et al. into the apparatus of Deep to comprises the means for verifying the integrity of data within the or each said environment.

iv. The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to have applied the teaching of Ta et al. into the system of Deep to establishes a physically and logically protected computing environment, because it is especially preferred that the chat rooms of the present invention be private so that confidential information can be exchanged between the parties without the risk of exposure to unauthorized third parties (see column 3, lines 29-32 of Deep). And The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to have applied the teaching of Ta et al. into the system of Deep to comprises the means for verifying the integrity of data within the or each said environment, because it is especially preferred that the chat rooms of the present invention be private so that confidential information can be exchanged between the parties without the risk of exposure to unauthorized third parties (see column 3, lines 29-32 of Deep).



Referring to claims 10, 29:

Deep and Ta et al. discloses the claimed subject matter: An apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 9 above). Ta et al. further discloses that the apparatus further comprises means for determining if a computing platform includes a logically and physically protected computing environment (see figure 14, element S490 of Ta et al.).

Referring to claims 14-15, 30-31:

i. Deep discloses the claimed subject matter: an apparatus for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 1 above). However, Deep does not specifically mention that the apparatus includes means for performing integrity checks on its hardware and software when providing a private virtual room.

ii. Ta et al. disclose a system wherein the system performs checks on its hardware and software (see figure 14, element S490 of Ta et al.).

iii. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Ta et al. into the apparatus of Deep to perform integrity checks on the hardware and software when providing the private virtual room.

iv. The ordinary skilled person would have been motivated to have applied the teaching of Ta et al. into the system of Deep to perform the integrity checks on the hardware and software when providing the private virtual room, because it is especially preferred that the chat rooms of the present invention be private so that confidential information can be exchanged between the parties without the risk of exposure to unauthorized third parties (see column 3, lines 29-32 of Deep).

Referring to claim 27:

Deep and Ta et al. discloses the claimed subject matter: a method for providing a private virtual room within which two or more parties can communicate electronically (see claim 26 above). Deep further discloses:

Art Unit: 2135

Means for receiving a request from at least one party to provide said virtual room, said request including information regarding the proposed purpose of said virtual room (see column 2, lines 63-67; and column 3, lines 1-6 of Deep);

Means for verifying the legitimacy of said proposed purpose and providing said virtual room only if said proposed purpose meets one or more predetermined criteria (see column 3, lines 7-10 of Deep).

### ***Conclusion***

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

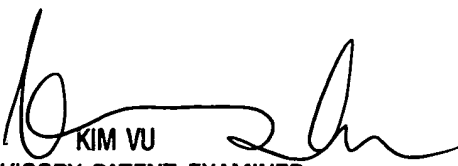
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Pan whose telephone number is 571-272-5987.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached at 571-272-3859. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-2100.

Joseph Pan

September 22, 2005

  
KIM VU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100